



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
HEARTLAND REGION -- ILLINOIS FIELD OFFICE
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Springfield, Illinois 62702



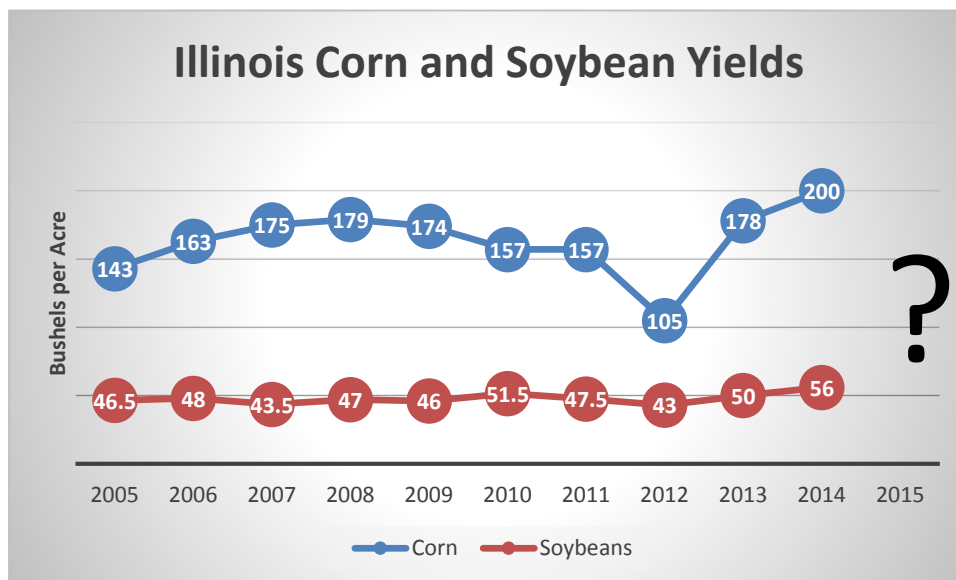
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USDA TO COLLECT FINAL 2015 CROP PRODUCTION AND CROP STOCKS DATA

Springfield, IL – As the 2015 growing season comes to an end, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will contact producers nationwide to gather final year-end crop production numbers and the amount of grain and oilseeds they store on their farms. At the same time, NASS will survey grain facility operators to determine year-end off-farm grain and oilseed stocks.

“These surveys are the largest and most important year-end surveys conducted by NASS,” explained NASS’s Illinois State Statistician Mark Schleusener. “They are the basis for the official USDA estimates of production and harvested acres of all major agricultural commodities in the United States and year-end grain and oilseed supplies. Data from the survey will benefit farmers and processors by providing timely and accurate information to help them make crucial year-end business decisions and begin planning for the next growing and marketing season.”



The information will be compiled, analyzed and then published in a series of USDA reports, including the *Crop Production Annual Summary* and quarterly *Grain Stocks* reports to be released January 12.

“Responses to the survey will be included in the County Agricultural Production Survey and used in calculating county yields,” explained Schleusener. “USDA uses county yield information from the survey to evaluate and administer vital farm disaster mitigation and insurance programs such as Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC). Farmers who receive this survey

are not included in the County Agricultural Production Survey; therefore this is their only opportunity to be included in the calculation of Illinois county yields.”

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential, as required by federal law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. These and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/. For more information call the Heartland Regional Field Office at 800-551-1014.

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NASS provides accurate, timely, useful and objective statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for “NASS Data User Community.”
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